

Catholics To Observe Feast Of the Immaculate Conception

Services Monday Will Mark the Close of the Novena, Which Started November 29; First Congregational Adds 11 Members; Men's Church Clubs to Meet Monday Evening.

MONDAY will be observed by the Roman Catholics of the city as the feast of the Immaculate Conception, and will close the Novena, which began the evening of Saturday, November 29. Services will be held Monday morning with masses at 6, 7, 8:30 and 9:30 o'clock and in the evening at 7:30 o'clock at church of the Immaculate Conception.

Rev. Father Edward Barry is preaching a course of sermons on the evidence of religion, taking the Apostles Creed as the basis for the sermon themes. The first three sermons were upon "Faith." The topic of the sermon Sunday will be "The Existence of God."

Adds 11 Members. The annual business meeting of the First Congregational church will be held on Monday. The business for the coming year will be considered and after the meeting refreshments will be served by the women of the church. Eleven new members have been added to the rolls of this church and its first year in the new church structure shows a healthy growth under the leadership of Rev. Miles Hanson.

Men's Club to Meet. The Men's club of the church of St. Clement, the Episcopal organization, will have a meeting Monday evening at Kendrick hall. These meetings are well attended and the program committee has arranged an unusually entertaining program for the club men of the church. The guild of St. Clement will meet Tuesday afternoon.

Brotherhood Meeting Monday. The Brotherhood of the Highland Park Baptist church will meet Monday evening at the church. This club is another of the men's organizations which is growing rapidly.

Prayer and Praise Service. A prayer and praise service was held at the East El Paso Methodist church Wednesday, which was attended by 46 members and which was one of the interesting meetings of the week. This was the second church conference of the month and reports from the officers, the various departments and the general church organization showed that there had been a steady growth and increased interest in church work. Six new members have been admitted recently, there has been one adult baptism and two infant baptisms. There are 65 on the membership roll and no removals have occurred during the month.

Consecration of Bishop Elect. Rev. Frederic Brigham Howden, bishop elect of the missionary district of New Mexico, including Texas west of the Pecos will be consecrated on Wednesday, January 1, at St. John's church, Georgetown, Washington, D. C. This advice has been received by Rev. Henry Easter, president of the council of advice for the New Mexico district. The order was from presiding bishop Daniel S. Tuttle, of Missouri. The presiding board at this ceremony will include:

The presiding bishop, the Rt. Rev. Boyd Vincent, D. D., of southern Ohio; the Rt. Rev. Alfred Haykins, D. D., of Washington; the Rt. Rev. G. Mott Williams, D. D., of Marquette; the Rt. Rev. P. M. Rhineland, D. D., of Pennsylvania; the Rt. Rev. P. T. Rowe, D. D., of Alaska; the Rt. Rev. Robert Talbot, of Washington; Rev. W. George Read, of Brighton, Mass.

The new bishop expects to be in El Paso about the first of February.

Will Elect Officers. The Epworth League of the First Methodist Episcopal church will hold a social and business meeting on Friday night at the home of Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Weeks, at 711 Texas street. The

Jericho's Fall a Triumph of Faith

William T. Ellis, in International Sunday School Lesson, Draws Lesson for Today From Old Battle.

DOWN in Atlanta the modern host of Joshua went up against the citadel of the legalized social evil, and began to march about it daily, blowing rams' horns—or what was the modern equivalent thereof, daily newspaper advertisements. At first Jericho jeered. Then it mistrusted. Then it feared. Then the citadel collapsed. The Old Testament story was repeated once more.

In truth the fall of Jericho is a word picture of human experience, which is every day illustrated. "This is the victory," even your faith. The conquests of confidence are a daily occurrence in business, as well as in religion. It is an eternal law that the conqueror is the victor. "According to your faith be it unto you." One reason more citadels of sin will not fall is because Christians sit cowering and complaining in their tents, making fear's futile plans, instead of marching forth to a confident assault, remembering that "the righteous are bold as a lion," and that the promise is that one man should be able to stand up to a host of sinners. Let us go to Jericho and learn a lesson in the art of spiritual warfare.

A Fresh Start in New Land. There was nothing new about the siege. The Israelites viewed the situation with deliberation. They sent forth their spies to reconnoiter. They made sure of their orders. Because they had made ready, they did not get into a panic. This was the unprepared who go to pieces in an emergency.

The end of one stage of their material life had ceased. Jordan had been crossed. The manna had ceased. New responsibilities had come upon them. They became more dependent upon their faith. Henceforth they must maintain themselves by the fruit of the land—which included Jericho. The person who wants the privileges of manhood, with none of its responsibilities and tasks, has really never grown up.

This new era was begun with a religious ceremony, even as many new married folk up their home with a little service of dedication. The altar of worship and service should be at the beginning and the center of every day's life. Jericho would fall if there were a better recognition of the part of God in their overthrow.

The Citadel First. All Canaanites have their Jerichos, which must be overcome before we can enter into possession. The liquid of milk and honey lies on the other side of the conquered fortress. The pilgrim must pass the inescapable comes to the celestial city. Difficulties test our fitness. Life is but a task on which to try the soul's sword. The new generation of youth who covet "easy money," who want the world's rewards but decline to pay its dues, are in a perilous case.

The program for the conquest of Jericho, as laid down by Jehovah, was almost absurdly simple. The host of Israel, led by the ark and the priests, were to march once a day around the citadel for six days, and seven times on the seventh day. They were to go in silence, giving no heed to the taunts of the warriors. When the ark was first, the symbol of Jehovah, was given, the Israelites were to march in silence. A new method was introduced into warfare. This procession was more like a religious ceremony than a military siege. That was the conqueror's idea: the glory should go to God, and not to man's prowess. The priests led off the eternal march of the disciplined Israelites.

The Silence of Strength. Can any one wonder that the thing got on Jericho's nerves. The silence was the march was more terrifying than the familiar shouting of warriors. Already the fame of Jehovah's dealing with Israel had turned the hearts of the heathen to water. Now this assumed silence soiled unmeaning faith. "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength."

That last day in the camp of Israel appeals to the imagination. Everybody was keyed up to the high-

est pitch. There was little sleep for anybody. Happily, the order for the day required an early start for that seven fold march around the city—no small task, being a journey of 25 or 30 miles.

It was toward evening when a long blast on the rams' horns sounded, and Joshua gave the expected word, "Shout! for Jehovah hath given you the city." What is that? Shout while the walls are still up? "God hath given you the city," though there it still stands in insolent defiance? Yes, just so. That is victory by anticipation. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even your faith."

When the Walls Went Down. Read the thrilling, dramatic narrative: "So the people shouted, and the priests blew the trumpets; and the people shouted with a great shout, and the wall fell down flat. Yes, it fell flat! God always does a complete task. It was not merely a breached wall, but a crumpled up and collapsed thing that the Israelites could not walk over."

Here enter the wise modernists who talk about "other vibrations," and point to the wireless telegraph as possible explanations of the miracle. We now know that these forces have always been in the world; and God has often used natural agencies which were at the time incomprehensible to us. But the point is that God uses them. This is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful in our eyes. The how of it all concerns us less than the stupendous truth that "God is on the field when he is most invisible." Jericho was conquered by the Jews and God, working in God's way. Ah, to be a marching private in the faithful ranks, when God goes forth to war!

Other Walls That Fall. If anybody thinks the fall of Jericho marvelous, let him look upon greater marvels. See the early missionary to China, crying with tears of despair, "O rock, O rock! When wilt thou open to me Lord?" In our day we have seen that rock riven, and the Christian gospel go in to revolutionary triumph.

Higher, broader, older and stronger walls than those of old Jericho have fallen before our eyes. Consider the cannibal isles that are now Christian communities, with better kept Sabbaths than we know in America. Recall old Korea, lately a heathen hermit nation; now a land of wonderful spiritual experiences with people thronging to study the Bible, attend church and do personal Christian work.

There never was such a day of Christian dominion as today. With appropriateness is the facade of the Washington Temple inscribed, "Thou hast put all things under his feet." Today, as of old, "faith is the victory." God is having his way in the world. Well for those who march with Israel, rather than fear with Jericho.

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Sentence Sermons By El Paso Ministers.

AS THIS Sunday has been assigned as Hospital day by proclamation of the governor of Texas it seems an appropriate time to call attention to the importance of erecting a city and county hospital which will be in keeping with the progress and importance of El Paso and adequate to properly care for the sick and injured of El Paso county for many years to come. Let us do away with private graft and place our public institutions on a disinterested and benevolent basis. The destitute sick of our community should be properly cared for. There should also be a free clinic and dispensary and diet kitchen maintained in the Chinahua district at public expense.—Rev. Kenneth Brown, of East El Paso Presbyterian church.

The world is full of people who want to have an easy time. These are not the ones who make the most of life or who get the most out of life. The ones who do are those who choose to do the difficult things, to travel the hard road, for in doing the things that are difficult and in traveling the road that is hard, service is rendered and character is developed.—Rev. Wallace R. Evans, of Highland Park Methodist church.

The Savior stands knocking for admission at the door of your heart; He would be the king of your heart, its one passion.—Rev. Paul G. Birkman, of the German Lutheran church.

The great question for us to consider is the question the jailer asked Paul: "What must I do to be saved?"—Rev. Herman G. Porter, of First Methodist Episcopal church.

God gave us his best—his son, Jesus Christ, to die for us. The very heart of God, his pity, his tender mercy, the drawing power of his love, was freely and fully given.—Rev. W. C. Baber, of the Altura Presbyterian church.

Each victory, won through faith, insures a subsequent triumph over adverse conditions. Faith grows, opportunities enlarge and ultimate success comes to those engaged in Christian warfare.—Rev. Charles H. Armstrong, of the St. Paul's Lutheran church.

Man's first duty, according to the teachings of Christ, is to seek the kingdom of God, but Jesus did not mean that men were to neglect business. He did mean that salvation is of the first and highest importance. The way to the kingdom of God is by the cross.—Rev. C. W. Webb, of Trinity Methodist church.

When once her own feet have been lifted from the miry clay of sin and planted securely upon "Rock of Ages," woman becomes a powerful factor in helping man to regain the position which he lost largely through her influence.—Rev. J. H. Allen at Austin Park Christian church.

The man who has a desperate need can least afford to deride Christianity, for it is his only hope.—Rev. John E. Abbott, of Westminster Presbyterian.

History repeats itself in regard to the doing of good things in a wicked way. The manner in which a thing is done can be condemned, while the doing of it can be approved. "Let not your good be evil spoken of," is the apostolic injunction.—Rev. H. P. Bond of the East El Paso Methodist church.

To crucify the life of sin is only to break the death shackles to let out a more real and blessed life, as the planted grain dies only that it may live more gloriously. In giving up worldliness we gain heavenliness.—Rev. A. E. Boyd, of the Highland Park Baptist church.

We may lay to covetousness three-fourths of the sins upon our black calendar of crime.—Rev. Henry Easter of the church of St. Clement.

If thy right hand offend thee—train it to do better.—Rev. Miles Hanson of the First Congregational church.

In personal service it is not so much what man may do for God, but rather what God may do with man; genius without spirituality becomes a mere exhibition.—Chas. L. Overstreet of the First Presbyterian church.

Sin is wrong against one's own soul, against man's neighbor and against God. But the sinner must be sorry chiefly because he has wronged God and then he is on the road to repentance. "Godly sorrow worketh repentance."—Rev. J. F. Williams of the First Baptist church.

Religion As An Investment

It Pays In Proportion to What Is Put Into It. Faithfulness and Zeal Rewarded.

PAY DAY proves whether or not the position is worth while. The day of dividends determines the value of the investment. The rewards of religion are one real test of its worth—whenever this topic faces the truth that the Christian is to be rewarded. The study of how and when makes a fruitful theme for anybody's consideration.

Like everything else they get most out of religion, who put most into it. Little children may be rewarded with a stick of candy, but as they grow older the rewards they prize most are less tangible and material. The word of approval, the smile of favor, the bestowal of companionship, the gift of love—these are the valuable forms of recognition. So it is with the rewards of the Christian. Simply to merit the Master's "Blessed," and to be conscious of his approval, is itself a goal of holy living.

There is a new commercial talking machine on the market that is fairly mysterious. It does away with the old wax cylinder and instead there are some three miles of sensitized wire. The victrol may record his words in the privacy of his office, and in another room transcribe them. But the most marvelous part of the mechanism is the way wherein, by pressure of a button, the electric fluid clears those wires of speech, so that they may be used over and over again and are not recorded written upon them. That is like the gospel truth of forgiveness, which is the Christian's first reward. In a way that we cannot understand, the same electric force of the Divine Spirit wipes out the record of sin. The past is blotted out. The life that once answered to unrighteousness now answers to holiness. That is the reward of the gospel of grace.

A slang phrase speaks of certain persons as "dead ones." The figure is accurate. There are many persons walking our streets who are dead to all that constitute real life. On the other hand, the Christian has inherited that royal promise of the Savior: "I am come that ye may have life, and have it more abundantly." He is, in the slang phrase, a "live one." He abounds in vitality. He is the power of an endless life. Amid men he lives like a life that is ever new eternal. No anemic, impoverished creature he, for in his spirit wells up the very fullness of life.

The business of being a Christian is a long-time transaction. Its rewards are not always present and manifest, but they are none the less sure. As says the Italian proverb—"God does not pay every Saturday; but he always pays."

Nowadays it is not fashionable to talk about heaven. When Jesus wanted to comfort his disciples he held up to them the thought of heaven. That has been the hope of the saints in all ages. Frankly, life is an insoluble mystery if we may not reckon beyond the grave. It takes two worlds to make this one understandable. God has laid up in heaven immeasurable and ineffable joys for those who love him. The eternal dance, the promise for all travelers who find life's high way dark and dreary.